

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM:LGR

APPROVED BY EA/IMS:EDWARD C. INGRAHAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CPRS, ID (STARR, FRANK)

SUBJECT: STARR CASE

REF: JAKARTA 1523.

1. AS FORETOLD REFTEL, STARR CASE HAS RESURFACED ONCE AGAIN. STARR CALLED COUNTRY DIRECTOR INGRAHAM FROM SAN FRANCISCO MARCH 11 TO REPEAT ASSERTIONS MADE BY ANTON MAKHLOUF IN JAKARTA, SAYING THAT GOI WAS AT LONG LAST ON VERGE OF SETTling STARR'S CLAIM AND NEEDED ONLY NUDGE FROM USG -- PREFERABLY IN FORM OF REQUEST FROM AMBASSADOR NEWSOM -- TO DO SO. HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF DEPT WOULD INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR TO PROCEED. TONE HIS REMARKS INDICATED THAT HE ASSUMED INGRAHAM HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF CASE. INGRAHAM (REMINDING STARR THAT THEIR SPORADIC ACQUAINTANCE EXTENDED BACK APPROXIMATELY QUARTER CENTURY) REPLIED THAT CLAIM AT THIS STAGE SEEMED TO BE MATTER SOLELY BETWEEN STARR AND GOI, AND THAT HE DID NOT SEE GROUNDS FOR USG TO INTERVENE IN ANY WAY. IF AND WHEN STARR HAD EXHAUSTED ALL LEGAL REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO HIM, INCLUDING SUCH INITIATIVES AS SUBMISSION OF CLAIM TO INDONESIAN COURTS, USG MIGHT AT

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THAT TIME BE ABLE TO HELP HIM IF IT APPEARED THAT HE HAD

BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF HIS CLAIM.
INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION ENDED WHEN STARR ASKED, AND INGRAHAM

AGREED, TO TALK BY PHONE TO MAKHLOUF, WHOM STARR
IDENTIFIED AS HIS "ATTORNEY".

2. FEW MOMENTS LATER MAKHLOUF PLACED CALL TO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HABIB, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO INGRAHAM. MAKHLOUF
WENT THROUGH SAME TALKING POINTS, EMBELLISHING THEM WITH
QUERY ABOUT PURSUING CASE IN U.S. FEDERAL COURT (INGRAHAM
GAVE SAME REPLY AS REFTEL) AND ASSERTIONS OF CLOSE FRIEND-
SHIP WITH NUMBER INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE INCLUDING SAUDI UN
REP BAROODY. LATER SAME DAY, INGRAHAM RECEIVED THIRD CALL
FROM J. LAWTON STONE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WHO IDENTIFIED
SELF AS ATTORNEY FOR STARR AND WENT OVER SAME GROUND.
INGRAHAM RESPONSE TO BOTH WAS SAME IN SUBSTANCE AS THAT
GIVEN STARR. MAKHLOUF ADVANCED SUGGESTION THAT DEPT'S
KNOWLEDGE OF STARR'S PAST ANTICS MIGHT BE PREJUDICING
DEPT AGAINST STARR. HE ASSURED INGRAHAM THAT STARR
SINCERELY REGRETTED SUCH EARLIER MISDEMEANORS AS ASSAULT
ON EMBOFF IN JAKARTA JAIL, OBSCENE LETTERS TO FORMER
AMBASSADOR'S WIFE, THREATS AGAINST SENIOR INDONESIAN
OFFICIALS, ETC. INGRAHAM IN TURN ASSURED MAKHLOUF THAT
DEPT'S POSITION IN MATTER WAS CUSTOMARY IN SUCH CIRCUM-
STANCES AND DID NOT REFLECT ANIMUS TOWARD STARR.

3. COMMENT: TO OLD-TIMERS IN INDONESIAN AFFAIRS,
REAPPEARANCE OF FRANK STARR SHOULD EVOKE SAME NOSTALGIA
AS RE-RUN OF ORIGINAL FRANKENSTEIN MOVIE ON LATE SHOW. INGERSOLL

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